Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A connection system for use in coupling a multi-polar medical electrical lead to a source of electrical energy, the medical electrical lead including at least three conductors, the connection system comprising:

   a first port to selectably electrically couple to at least two of the at least three conductors;

   a second port to electrically couple to another one of the at least three conductors; and

   a connector to couple to the source of energy.

2. The connection system of Claim 1, wherein each of the at least three conductors is electrically coupled to protruding connection members, and wherein the first port comprises a channel to receive connection members respectively associated with the at least two conductors.

3. The connection system of Claim 2, wherein the second port is adapted to receive a connection member respectively associated with the other one of the at least three conductors.

4. The connection system of Claim 1, wherein the connector is bifurcated.

5. The connection system of Claim 1, wherein the connector includes an IS-1 industry-standard type connector.

6. The connection system of Claim 1, wherein the connection includes a DF-1 industry-standard type connector.

7. The connection system of Claim 1, wherein the connection system includes a body having a distal end adjacent the first and second ports, and further comprising a roll-back sleeve adjacent the distal end.

8. The connection system of Claim 1, wherein the second port is adapted to electrically couple to multiple other ones of the at least three conductors.

9. The connection system of Claim 1, wherein at visible indicator is provided to aid in selectably electrically coupling the first port to at least two of the at least three conductors.

10. The connection system of Claim 1, and further comprising at least one lockout member to prevent the first port from being electrically coupled to a predetermined combination of the at least three conductors.

11. A connection system for use in coupling a multi-polar medical electrical lead to a source of electrical energy, the medical electrical lead including at least three conductors each electrically coupled to a respective electrode, the connection system comprising:

a first port to selectably electrically couple at least two of the at least three conductors to one another;

a second port to electrically couple to another one of the at least three conductors; and

a connector to couple to the source of electrically energy.

12. A medical system to provide electrical stimulation to living tissue, comprising:

a lead having at least three conductors, each of the conductors being coupled to a respective electrode;

an energy source; and

a connection system to electrically couple ones of the at least three conductors to the energy source, the connection system comprising:

a first port to electrically couple at least two selected ones of the at least three conductors together in common;

a second port to electrically couple to at least one other one of the at least three conductors; and

a connector to respectively electrically couple the first and second ports to the energy source.

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein the energy source is a pulse generator.

14. The system of Claim 13, wherein the energy source is an implantable medical device (IMD).

15. The system of Claim 14, wherein the IMD is a cardioverter/defibrillator, and wherein the first port is adapted to be electrically coupled to receive cardioversion/defibrillation pulses from the IMD.

16. The system of Claim 15, wherein the IMD is a pacemaker cardioverter/defibrillator, and wherein the second port is adapted to be electrically coupled to receive relatively low-voltage stimulation energy from the IMD.

17. The system of Claim 12, wherein the connector is bifurcated.

18. The system of Claim 12, wherein the connector includes an IS-1 industry-standard type connector.

19. The system of Claim 12, wherein the connection includes a DF-1 industry-standard type connector.

20. The system of Claim 12, wherein the connection system further includes at least one additional port, each to electrically couple to at least one additional one of the at least three conductors.